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## NEWS AND COMMENTS

*Edited by Lester B. Shippee*

Students of western history find in P. W. Bidwell's "Agricultural revolution in New England," in the *American historical review* for July, 1921, many illuminating points bearing on western economic development during the two decades which preceded the civil war.

The April and July, 1921, issues of the *Virginia magazine of history and biography* have some valuable "Documents relating to a proposed Swiss and German colony in the western part of Virginia," which should interest students of the history of the early Ohio valley. The other contributions to these numbers deal with matters relating to Virginia proper.

The conclusion of John E. Iglehart's "Methodism in southwestern Indiana" is found in the June, 1921, number of the *Indiana magazine of history*. Logan Esarey contributes a discussion of teaching problems under the title of "The approach to history," and Charles H. Money begins a study of "The fugitive slave law in Indiana," of which the first installment deals with the situation before the act of 1850, the attitude of Hoosiers on the compromise law, and something of the operation of the act within the state.

The Royal society of Canada in its *Proceedings and transactions* (Third series, volume 14 — Toronto, 1920), in addition to giving an account of the May, 1920, meeting, details of business, and so forth, presents a number of papers on various subjects, historical and scientific. Little of direct application to the western history of the United States is found except some items occurring in an article entitled "Jean Joliet et ses enfants," written by Monseigneur Amédée Gosselin.

The *Pennsylvania magazine of history and biography* has been bringing out a valuable series of documents in the form of letters written by Thomas Rodney, who was judge and commissioner of the then newly organized Mississippi territory. Nearly all the letters were addressed to the judge's son, Caesar A. Rodney, and they contain a mass of information on all sorts of topics relating to the new southwest. The October, 1920, number of the magazine, the latest issue received, brings the communications down into 1806.

The *Palimpsest* has been devoting some attention to community schemes which have touched Iowa's history at one point or another. In the April, 1921, number, Ruth A. Gallaher's "Icaria and the Icarians" occupies more than half the pages; and Bertha M. Shambaugh's "Amana" fills the entire July issue. Mrs. Shambaugh's vivid story of the communist organization in Iowa County, which is in part taken from her book, *Amana: the community of true inspiration*, published in 1908, has a peculiar timeliness.

In the *Political science quarterly* for September, 1921, V. Rosewater produces "A curious chapter in constitution changing," a brief study of Nebraska's experiments in constitution tinkering since its admission to the union. In the *Supplement* to this number Harry J. Carman and Elmer D. Graper put forth a "Record of political events from July 1, 1920, to June 30, 1921." This "Record" is a convenient handbook of reference for all who have occasion to look up political happenings in America, Asia, or Europe for the twelvemonth.

H. G. Wells' *Outline of history* continues to bring out comments, reviews and criticisms. Two in particular should be read to sample the reactions of historians to this tremendous essay: D. S. Muzzey's "Mr. Wells' utopian pessimism," in the *Political science quarterly* for June, 1921, and Carl Becker's "Mr. Wells and the new history," in the *American historical review* of July, 1921. Incidentally those who have dipped into the *Outline* and have followed some of the reviews will be interested in Mr. Wells' article in the *Yale review* for July, in which he writes, not an apology nor quite an explanation, but a statement of his reasons for doing what he did.

The Indiana historical society has brought out, as number 7 of volume 7 of its *Publications*, the journal of Henry Hay, under the title, "Fort Wayne in 1790." The journal was originally edited and printed by M. M. Quaife in the *Proceedings* of the Wisconsin historical society for 1914 as "A narrative of life on the old frontier." The present pamphlet, with an explanatory introduction by Mr. Quaife, affords a convenient access to an interesting and valuable document dealing with the old northwest at a time when few white men except trappers and fur traders were to be found north of the Ohio.

The *American economic review* for June, 1921, contains several articles of interest to the student of contemporary problems in western development. Directly applicable to the study of the west are James E. Boyle's "Marketing of agricultural products," Asher Hobson's "Farmers' co-operative associations," and H. Bruce Price's "Grain

standardization." More general fields are covered by the "Federal reserve policy," presented by A. C. Miller, "Criteria of marketing efficiency," by Fred E. Clark, and "Stabilization of prices," by B. H. Hibbard. The September issue has a discussion of "Recent developments in the federal farm loan system," by George E. Putnam.

The *Tennessee historical magazine* dated October, 1920, but bearing under the date the statement "Issued August, 1921," has a long review of *The autobiography of Martin Van Buren*, by W. E. Beard. In addition to this, A. V. Goodpasture discusses "Pepys and the proprietors of Carolina," Robert S. Henry has a paper on "The extension of the northern boundary line of Tennessee — the Matthews line," and there is reprinted from the *North Carolina booklet* an article on "Andrew Jackson a member of the Guilford (N. C.) bar." Two documents — one on "Aboriginal remains in Tennessee," the other a letter relating to William C. C. Claiborne — the last installment of Miss Kate White's "Marriage record of Knox county, Tennessee," and notes and news complete the number.

Those concerned with the teaching of history to college students will find matter for thought in Ralph H. Gabriel's "General course in United States history and the liberal arts college," which is printed in the October *Historical outlook*. This paper tells about a pedagogical experiment at Yale. The same issue of the *Outlook* contains a summary of the report of the committee of the Mississippi valley historical association on standardizing library work and library equipment in secondary schools. The summary is printed from the *School review* of February, 1921. The full report, including the questionnaire, appeared in the *Proceedings* of the association for 1919-1920.

Something of the scope of the remarkable war collection now being gathered for Stanford university is indicated by a pamphlet issued from the Stanford press (1921) by Professor E. D. Adams — *The Hoover war collection at Stanford university, California: a report and an analysis*. The collection is made possible by a gift from Mr. Herbert Hoover, who, on the suggestion of Professor Adams, began while in Europe at work on the Belgian relief to gather such materials as he might. Later the enterprise assumed a more pretentious scope. During and since the war, agents, giving all or part of their time, have been scouring Europe for all sorts of historical material and have already secured a notable collection.

In the *Western Pennsylvania historical magazine* for July, 1921, are to be found several different articles bearing distinctly on the his-

tory of the Mississippi valley. "The operation of the fugitive slave law in western Pennsylvania, from 1850 to 1860," by Irene E. Williams, adds some new facts and gathers into a rounded narrative others bearing on this controversial legislation and its working. The Reverend S. J. Fisher, D.D., from personal recollection and from published sources, gives a lively sketch of Jane Grey Swisshelm. Other contributions to this number are an account of "Half a century of the Allegheny county bar association," the story of "A visit to Economy in the spring of 1840," by Reverend William A. Passavant, and a continuation of the history of "The Pittsburgh Blues," by Captain John H. Niebaum.

Father Charles H. Metzger, S.J., has published in the January, April, and July numbers of the *Illinois Catholic historical review* an account of Sebastien Louis Meurin, S.J., an early worker in the Illinois field. The Reverend John Rothensteiner carries on his study of "The north-eastern part of the diocese of St. Louis under Bishop Rosati." The April number contains the story of "The Sisters of Mercy: Chicago's pioneer nurses and teachers—1846-1921," written by a "Sister of the community," and a beginning of the transcript of "The first Chicago church records," prepared by Joseph J. Thompson, which, with comments supplied by the editor, is continued in the July issue. The latter number also present a sketch of "The Ancient order of Hibernians," by the Reverend Frank L. Reynolds, and "An American martyrology," by Joseph J. Thompson.

*Tuberculosis among the Nebraska Winnebago: a social study on an Indian reservation* (Lincoln: Nebraska state historical society, 1921. 48 p.) is a useful study made by Dr. Margaret W. Koenig among the Indians of a reservation in Thurston county, Nebraska. The first chapter gives a brief summary of the early history of this branch of the Winnebago and its establishment upon this small reservation, together with information about the present general condition of the tribe. The last two chapters discuss the subject indicated in the title. The reader is impressed with the fact that, despite the expenditure of millions of dollars, the government of the United States has had little real success in its handling of the problem of a primitive race.

"The family trail through American history," by Cyril A. Herrick, is the leading article in the *Minnesota history bulletin* for November, 1920. Mr. Herrick shows how an interest in one's ancestors and a curiosity about them leads to many bypaths and even highways of history. Theodore C. Blegen contributes another of his Scandinavian studies under the title "The early Norwegian press in America." This number of the *Bulletin* announces the acquisition by the Minnesota historical soci-

ety of much material of interest and value. From the office of the secretary of state has come a generous file now made accessible to the student. Papers of the Reverend Moses N. Adams, an early missionary, and of Captain Henry A. Castle, who came to Minnesota in 1866, and some of the papers of General William C. LeDuc, one time United States commissioner of agriculture, are among the more extensive additions to manuscript materials.

The Indiana historical commission brings out as a volume of the *Indiana historical collections* the first volume of Indiana world war records—the *Gold star honor roll: a record of Indiana men and women who died in the service of the United States and the allied nations in the world war* (Indianapolis: The Indiana historical commission, 1921. 750 p.) The work consists of portraits accompanied by brief biographical notes of all those who gave their lives, either on the field of battle or elsewhere, while in the service. Except for the names of the man first killed in battle and the naval officer and the military officer highest in rank among the dead from Indiana, the names are grouped under counties arranged alphabetically. This work will undoubtedly be sought by the family of every man who lost his life directly or indirectly as a result of his war service, but its usefulness from a historical point of view is not very great.

The *Southwestern historical review* continues to bring out its valuable contributions to the history of Texas and the southwest. In the April, 1921, issue, A. K. Christian completes his study of "Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar," and J. Fred Rippey presents a discussion of "Some precedents of the Pershing expedition into Mexico." The April number also has the first of two papers by Miss Annie Middleton dealing with the steps taken by Texas in completion of the annexation to the United States. The title of the installment in the April number is "Donelson's mission to Texas in behalf of annexation," and that of the contribution to the July issue, "The Texas convention of 1845." The July *Review* has also a study of "The annexation of Texas and the Mississippi democrats," by James E. Winston, as well as the opening portion of an interesting journal, written by Lewis Birdsall Harris, 1836-1848. The portion of the journal brought out in the July issue tells about Harris' trip from New York state to New Orleans while he was on his way to Texas to "fight the Mexicans."

Two of a series of three articles on "The internal grain trade of the United States, 1860-1890," by Professor Louis B. Schmidt of Iowa state college, appear in the April and July (1921) numbers of the *Iowa journal of history and politics*. In the April issue Marcus L.

Hansen has an article on the "Official encouragement of immigration to Iowa." This number also contains a transcript of twenty-one letters, written in 1845 by Governor John Chambers, dealing principally with Indian affairs. The editor's explanatory note states that these letters form undoubtedly "a fragment of the official record," the remainder of which seems to have disappeared completely. One letter, addressed to President Polk, gives a sidelight on the boundary dispute between Iowa and Missouri. The July issue presents "Iowa and the diplomatic service," and "Kasson and the first international postal conference," both by John E. Briggs, and a study of "Mechanics' institutions," by Charles Ray Aurner. Both numbers have detailed comment about historical activities in the state.

A "symposium" on the Kensington rune stone, participated in by L. M. Larson, H. R. Holand, and R. B. Anderson, appears in the June issue of the *Wisconsin magazine of history*, and, according to the editorial comment at the end "closes the discussion of the rune stone question, on its present basis, in this magazine." The same number has a sketch of "Rufus King: soldier, editor and statesman," by General Charles King, an article by John S. Roeseler on "The evangelical association on Lomira circuit," Louise P. Kellogg's "First missionary in Wisconsin," (Father René Ménard), and a note on two early settlers in the state by W. A. Titus under the heading "Two graves in a rural Wisconsin cemetery." The "Letters of a Badger boy in blue" give Chauncey H. Cooke's impressions of the Vicksburg campaign, and the installment in the September number tells what he saw and felt in the Atlanta campaign. The September *Magazine* has also four contributed articles: "How Wisconsin women won the ballot," by Theodora W. Youmans, "Jean Brunet, Chippewa valley pioneer," by William W. Bartlett, "Wisconsin's first literary magazine," (*The garland of the west, and Wisconsin monthly magazine*), and another of W. A. Titus' descriptions of historic spots, "Ceresco, a pioneer communist settlement."

The first installments of William E. Bailey's historical and biographical sketch of Woodford county, Kentucky, are found in the May and September issues of the *Register of the Kentucky state historical society*. In the May number there is an anonymous article on "The religious development of early Kentucky," for the views of which, it is stated in an editorial note, the *Register* assumes no responsibility. The article rounds up many interesting facts connected with the development of Kentucky down to about 1830. A collection of letters written by James T. Eubank describes the siege of Fort Meigs in the war of 1812. An effort is being made to purchase the Bardstown county homestead of

John Rowan, where Stephen C. Foster wrote the words and composed the air of "My old Kentucky home;" and an article by Willard Rouse Jillson, director and state geologist of the Kentucky geological survey, is included in the May number to call attention to the campaign to raise funds. The September number of the *Register* contains a copy of the Fayette county tax list for the year 1788, and a diary, written by Colonel C. M. Taylor, in which there is a description of the Cardenas expedition of Narciso Lopez in 1850. Dr. Jillson presents "A history of the Kentucky geological survey (1838-1921)."

In the *Ohio archaeological and historical quarterly* for January, 1921, are reprinted the minutes of the meeting of the legislature of the Northwest territory held in Cincinnati in 1795. The record of this assembly was published in the *Centinel of the Northwest Territory*, but since there is only one known file of this paper for that year, the reprint is very useful. B. F. Prince has an account of "Early journeys to Ohio." Other features of the January number are a letter written by James R. Morris in 1897 describing the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, a paper on "The Indian's head," by Henry Bannon, and a reprint of the *Review of reviews* descriptive of the battle of Picardy. The October, 1920, issue of this quarterly is given up largely to an account of the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the society, although the concluding portion of Celeron's journal and a brief account of the lead plate found at the mouth of the Muskingum river find a place. In an effort to concentrate attention on Ohio's need for increased support of its historical activities, comment on what is being done elsewhere discusses how much further some of the newer states have gone; illustrations show buildings erected within the past few years in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and New Hampshire, and these are contrasted with the facilities in Ohio.

Volume 24 of the *Publications of the Buffalo historical society*, edited by the secretary of the society, Mr. Frank H. Severance (Buffalo, New York: Buffalo historical society, 1920) contains a document, "Memoranda of a military tour commenced at Brownsville on Sunday the 30th of May 1819, to several posts and garrisons on the waters of the western lakes," prepared by Captain Roger Jones, who accompanied General Jacob Brown, the district commander, on the tour, which penetrated as far west as the eastern end of Lake Superior. The manuscript of this report is in the Library of congress and has never heretofore been published. Another document tells of early travel on Lake Erie. Frederick Houghton's "History of the Buffalo creek reservation" is a topographical, archaeological, and historical study of the region settled by refugee Seneca. Some account of the unsuccessful attempt to remove the Indians to Wisconsin territory is given. The editor of the



volume, Mr. Severance, gives "The story of Phinney's Western almanack," the publication of which began in Buffalo in 1850, but which had appeared for half a century before from Cooperstown or, for a brief space, from Otsego.

A double number the *Michigan history magazine*, January-April, 1921, has in addition to a generous collection of "Historical news, notes and comments," the eighth annual *Report* of the Michigan historical commission, a list of donations to the Pioneer museum, and several contributed articles. The latter include "Romance and adventure on the Ontonagon," by H. M. Powers, "New England men in Michigan history," by William Stocking, "Recollections of Zachariah Chandler," by O. E. McCutcheon, "A brief history of the Cleveland-Cliffs iron company," by J. E. Jopling, "Laura Smith Haviland," by Caroline R. Humphrey, "Michigan's memorial and historical building," by Murray MacKay, "A sketch of some institutional beginnings in Michigan," by W. O. Hedrick, "Early days in Petoskey," by Henry McConnell, "Public schools of Battle Creek," by W. G. Coburn, and a summary of "Michigan war legislation, 1919," by Charles Landrum. According to the annual *Report* the Michigan historical commission has in preparation a notable collection of publications:

"*The bibliography of Michigan history*, comprising published and manuscript material on Michigan's resources, development and growth, is ready for the press, excepting the index. Well along in preparation is a volume of *Readings* on Michigan history for schools; a volume of biographies of public men of Michigan including state officers; a volume of the records of the judges and governors of Michigan territory; *The history of the women's clubs of Michigan*; and the *Autobiography of Hon. John Ball*, early pioneer of the Grand river valley. Plans are progressing for the series of *Papers and messages of the governors of Michigan*."

Some 25,000 manuscripts, 3,000 newspapers, and 660 books and pamphlets, ranging in date from 1776 to 1892, have been found by Mr. H. A. Kellar in Rockbridge county, Virginia, and acquired by the McCormick agricultural library. Among the manuscripts are papers of James McDowell, who took a prominent part in public life in Virginia between 1800-1840, of his son James McDowell, governor of Virginia in the forties, of "Honest" John Letcher, civil war governor of Virginia, and of Alexander H. H. Stuart, secretary of the interior under President Fillmore, and sixty journals and accounts of merchants of Rockbridge county covering the years 1776-1860. The newspapers are issues of the *Gazette* and *Valley Star* of Lexington, the *Spectator* and *Vindicator* of Staunton, the *Advocate* of Buena Vista, and the *Republi-*

*can-Sentinel*, the *South*, the *Whig*, and other newspapers of Richmond, Virginia. The books and pamphlets are chiefly early Virginiana and agricultural publications. Among the latter are a number of early volumes of the *American farmer*, an almost complete set of the *Farmer's register*, and several publications of DeBow. The acquisitions as a whole throw light on conditions in Virginia from the close of the revolution to the reconstruction era.

The Agricultural history society is endeavoring to create a national agricultural museum in Washington, D. C., showing the development of American agriculture.

Four numbers of the *Journal of the Illinois state historical society* have appeared in rapid succession, bringing this publication to the first number of its thirtieth volume (April, 1920). The principal article in the issue for July, 1919, is "The rise of the Methodist Episcopal church in Illinois from the beginning to the year 1832," by John D. Barnhart, Jr. This careful study is accompanied by a detailed bibliography which shows the use of considerable material as yet unpublished.

The October, 1919, *Journal* contains the "War diary of Thaddeus H. Capron, 1861-1865." The "diary" consists of extracts from letters written by Capron to various members of his family while he was a member of the Fifty-fifth Illinois infantry volunteer regiment. Whenever such a document as this is published in one of the numerous historical periodicals, each student of history has cause to rejoice; and when one considers the mass of material still buried in various collections, one sometimes wishes that less space might be devoted to contributed articles of questionable value and more to these documents which do not fit into any particular series of a more pretentious nature yet which if unpublished are to all intents and purposes locked from use. The January, 1920, issue of the *Journal* contains a short document, a portion of "A diary of the civil war," written by Robert Miller Hatfield and describing experiences as a religious worker in General Meade's camp in 1864. Several contributed articles and a reprint of Lord Charnwood's "Address at unveiling of statue of Abraham Lincoln, state house grounds, Oct. 6, 1918," are also in this number. The April *Journal* brings out some personal reminiscences: Cyrus B. Plattenburg's "In St. Louis during the crisis"—that is, upon the outbreak of the civil war—William Hawley Smith's "Old time campaigning and the story of a Lincoln campaign song," Gaius Paddock's "Restrospection of four score years," and a "Memoir of James Knowles Kellogg."

The state park system of North Dakota is set forth in a series of contributions printed in volume 6 of the *Collections of the state histor-*

*ical society of North Dakota.* O. G. Libby, in a brief article entitled "North Dakota's state park system," describes the progress already made in having areas set apart for the commemoration of important events in the history of the state, explains how such parks may be secured by localities, and gives an account of the administration of such regions. To date seven parks have been established: Walhalla state park on the Pembina river near where Norman W. Kittson had a trading post as early as 1844; Fort Ambercrombie state park, on the Red river, embracing a considerable portion of the original reservation on which was built the first federal fort within the limits of the state in 1858; Fort Abraham Lincoln park, on the "old Fort Abraham Lincoln Military Reserve, two miles south of Mandan;" Fort Rice state park, on the site of the old fort which was built in 1864; Pembina state park, located within the city of Pembina and including the site of the earliest trading post in the state, erected in 1797 by Chaboillez; and Cavalier county state park, the last to be established, on O'Brien's coulée. The last is at the place where occurred a battle of the Chippewa and French half-breeds with their long-time enemies, the Dakota, about 1848. The "Constitution and by-laws for the state parks of North Dakota" are given at length, and Melvin R. Gilmore, curator of the North Dakota state historical society, explains how, by the utilization of native flora, these parks may be made not only attractive but appropriate to the locality where they are situated. Then follows a "List of trees, shrubs, vines, herbaceous flowering plants and grasses native to North Dakota and suitable and desirable for use in planting of parks," a very useful partial compendium of the flora of the state for general consultation, as well as for the perusal of park boards. Altogether the impression is left that North Dakota has started on a sane and highly commendable program of setting apart natural monuments to keep green the memory of past events which have had their share in shaping the modern commonwealth.

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Mississippi valley historical association will be held on May 11, 12, and 13, 1922, in Iowa City. The members of the local committee of arrangements are: Benjamin F. Shambaugh, chairman, John C. Parish, Ethyl E. Martin, and Ruth a Gallaher of the State historical society of Iowa; A. M. Schlesinger, Louis Pelzer, Bessie L. Pierce, and Donald L. McMurry of the State university of Iowa; Bruce E. Mahan of the Iowa City high school; and Edgar R. Harlan of the Historical department of Iowa.